

Application No. 10/705,533

Reply to Office Action

*REMARKS**The Pending Claims*

Claims 1-8 and 13 are currently pending. Claims 15-25, which had been withdrawn, are canceled without prejudice.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office Action has stated that claims 2, 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3, 6-8, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by the Shimagaki '857 reference.

Discussion of the Section 102 Rejection


Applicants respectfully disagree that the Shimagaki '857 reference anticipates the present invention. However, to facilitate the prosecution of this application, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 2, 4 and 5. As stated in the Office Action, this should put claim 1 in condition for allowance. Additionally, claims depending on the amended claim 1 should now also be allowable.

Claims 2, 4, 5 and 15-25, are hereby canceled.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,


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